Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal,~~The method according to Claim 1~~ wherein creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if a 3x3 neighborhood contains white ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong foreground.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal,~~The method according to Claim 1~~

wherein creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if ~~the~~a 3x3 neighborhood contains black ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong background.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal,~~The method according to Claim 1~~

wherein creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if ~~the~~a 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels ~~then multi-bit~~then its multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals if ~~the~~a center class is darker then strong foreground else strong background.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal;

(c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal;

(d) determining if a pixel is white ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong background or foreground; else

(e) determining if a 3x3 neighborhood contains white ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong foreground or background; else

(f) determining if the pixel is black ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong foreground or background; else

(g) determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains black ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit select signal equals strong background or foreground; else

(h) determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels and the center pixel belongs to a darker class then the multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal is strong foreground or background; else

(i) determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels and the center pixel belongs to a lighter class then the multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal is strong background or foreground; else

(j) multi-bit selector equals a weak signal.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising:

(a) means for creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) means for filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) means for binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal,~~The system according to Claim 9 further comprising~~

wherein the means for creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if a 3x3 neighborhood contains white ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong foreground.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising:

(a) means for creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) means for filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) means for binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal,~~The system according to Claim 9 further comprising~~

wherein the means for creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains black ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals strong background.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising:

(a) means for creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) means for filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) means for binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal,~~The system according to Claim 9 further comprising~~

wherein the means for creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if ~~the~~a 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels ~~then multi-bit~~then its corresponding multi-bit ~~select signal~~selector signal equals if ~~the~~a center class is darker then strong foreground else strong background.